BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 12-02* *January 13th, 2012*

- **November building permits jump 31.5%**
- **BC's energy use climbs in 2010**
- **BC exports up 7.2% in November**

The Economy

- **BC origin exports continued to seesaw in November, climbing 7.2% following a 13.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) decline in the previous month.** November's boost was mostly due to a 17.5% surge in energy shipments. Exports to the US inched up (+0.9%) while shipments to other countries jumped 12.7%. Energy exports to the US slipped (-4.4%), but shipments of energy to overseas countries soared (+31.3%).

  Canadian exports were 3.2% higher (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, with most sectors posting gains. As was the case in BC, a rise in energy exports (+6.4%) was the primary cause of the upturn. Overall exports south of the border climbed 1.9%, while shipments to Japan (+4.6%) and the European Union (+20.9%) were up more significantly. Shipments to other OECD countries (-12.3%) declined in November. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The number of housing starts in the province ended the year on a low note (-18.1% *seasonally adjusted*) in December, bucking the national trend.** Canadian starts were up 7.9%, as new building activity accelerated substantially in some provinces. Ontario saw starts increase by nearly a third (+32.4%) and Nova Scotia more than tripled its activity (+203.6%). Meanwhile, Quebec (+7.2%) and New Brunswick (+5.7%) recorded solid, but comparatively moderate increases. On the other side of the scale, starts were down most notably in PEI (-46.7%) and Manitoba (-34.7%). *Data Source: CMHC*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities jumped 31.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November building on a moderate increase (+6.3%) in the previous month.** Permits for residential projects were up 29.5%, while the value of permits issued for other types of buildings increased an even more substantial 36.0%. Non-residential permits have shown continued volatility in 2011, and the latest boost was a far cry from the 115.9% upsurge in March. Permits issued for institutional & government projects climbed (+68.1%) in November and commercial (+30.4%) projects also increased. However, planned spending on industrial projects declined (-9.8%), following a 45.9% climb in October.

  Building permits increased in the Vancouver (+71.2%), Kelowna (+5.9%) and Victoria (+2.0%) areas, but Abbotsford-Mission (-76.1%), BC's other census metropolitan area, posted a substantive decline.

  Canadian permits slipped 3.6% in November, mostly due to decreases in Quebec (-1.0%) and Ontario (-13.2%). Permits were also off in Saskatchewan (-10.5%), Alberta (-7.9%) and parts of Atlantic Canada. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, building permits were 11.8% lower than in the first eleven months of 2010, with decreases in six regions.** Planned spending on construction projects was down in all regions of the province except Northeast (+17.8%) and North Coast (+145.0%), where a surge in the value of industrial projects teamed up with steady increases in other sectors.

  Among other regions, Mainland/Southwest (-7.9%) was the only one to post less than a double-digit decline. Nechako (-36.4%) re-

Report **Trade With Down Under Looking Up**

Did you know...

British Columbians list pharmacists, doctors, soldiers, pilots, and teachers as the 5 most trusted professions Source: Ipsos Canada

corded the biggest slip, followed by Thompson-Okanagan (-27.9%), Kootenay (-27.6%), Cariboo (-24.7%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-15.9%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Tourism

- **Tourism spending in Canada was up 0.8% (*2002 dollars, adjusted for price changes*) in the third quarter of last year, marking the ninth consecutive quarterly increase.** The advance was driven mostly by domestic tourism demand (+1.0%), as tourism spending by non-residents was relatively flat (+0.1%). Tourism spending by Canadians at home has been trending upward since the second quarter of 2009. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Energy Consumption

- **The province's demand for energy increased (+1.4%) in 2010, ending two years solid of declines.** British Columbia consumed 835 petajoules of energy in 2010, up from 824 petajoules in 2009. (A petajoule is about the amount of energy required to operate a metropolitan subway system for a year.) The increase was the result of augmented consumption in the agricultural (+52.6%), industrial (+5.5%) and transportation (+4.0%) sectors. Despite the province's overall climb in energy demand, commercial (-1.1%), residential (-11.1%) and public administration (-12.5%) usages were down from 2009 levels.

- **Canada's energy consumption swelled 2.2% in 2010, following a notable decline in the previous year (-5.1%). Similarly to BC,** the agricultural sector showed the most dramatic increase (+16.8%), followed by the industrial (+6.2%) and transportation (+2.6%) sectors. Eased consumption in the residential, commercial and public administration sectors was not enough to offset the increase. Overall, Canadians used 7,622 petajoules of energy in 2010. Although Canada's appetite for energy from fossil fuels did increase in 2010, levels remained lower than in 2007 and 2008.

The 835 petajoules consumed in British Columbia in 2010 translate to approximately 11% of all energy consumed in the country. Consumption in Ontario, Alberta and Quebec continued to account for most of the energy consumed in Canada. In 2010, their share represented nearly three quarters (74%) of Canada's total energy demand. Quebec, Manitoba and Newfoundland & Labrador were the only provinces to record decreases in energy demand between 2009 and 2010.

In terms of supply, Canada produced 21,213 petajoules of energy from all sources in 2010. To put these figures into perspective, 30 litres of gasoline contains roughly one gigajoule of energy and a petajoule is the equivalent of one million gigajoules. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Research & Development

- **Spending on research and development (R&D) in the province slipped (-3.7%) to $2.8 billion between 2008 and 2009.** The decrease was partly attributable to a slowdown in R&D performance and funding by business enterprises within the province. Just under half (46%) of the funding for R&D in 2009 came from business enterprises. Higher education institutions (18%), the federal government (18%), foreign sources (9%) and the provincial government (6%) also provided funding for R&D in the province.

Business enterprises accounted for about half of all R&D performance in New Brunswick, Ontario, Alberta and BC, whereas in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and most of the Atlantic provinces, universities were the leading R&D performers.

Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in Canada is expected to reach close to $30 billion in 2011, a 2.0% increase over 2010's figure. Increased expenditure on R&D in the business enterprise sector is expected to account for much of the estimated growth in national GERD.

Data Source: SC Cat. #88-001-XIE

***Infoline** Issue: 12-02*
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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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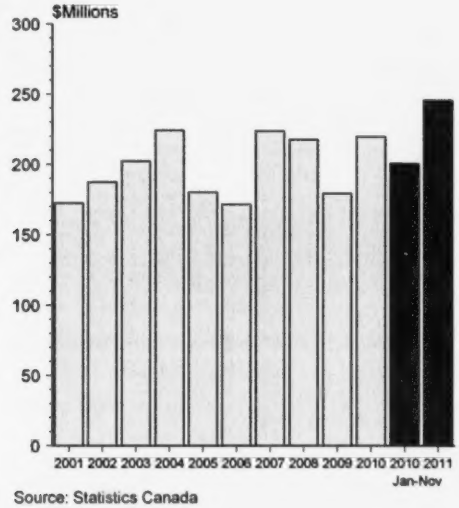
Trade With Down Under Looking Up

After dropping 17.6% between 2008 and 2009 in the midst of the global economic downturn, BC's commodity exports to Australia recovered in 2010, climbing 22.5%, and have continued to grow in 2011, rising another 22.5% year-to-date to November. In fact, BC is poised to post its highest value of exports to Australia since 1995.

BC's commodity exports to Australia have experienced strong growth in the last two years



Source: Statistics Canada

A big reason for the decline in shipments between 2008 and 2009 was a 36.9% drop in exports of lumber. While there has been no recovery in BC's lumber shipments to Australia, other forest products have been contributors to the overall turnaround. For example, pulp has overtaken lumber as BC's top export to Australia. Approximately $33.2 million worth of pulp was exported from BC to Australia in 2010, representing growth of 11.1% over the value shipped in 2009. There has also been substantial growth in shipments of plywood and veneer, from virtually none in 2009 to $5.4 million worth in 2010 and more than doubling again in 2011. In addition, there has been a considerable jump in exports of paper products to Australia.

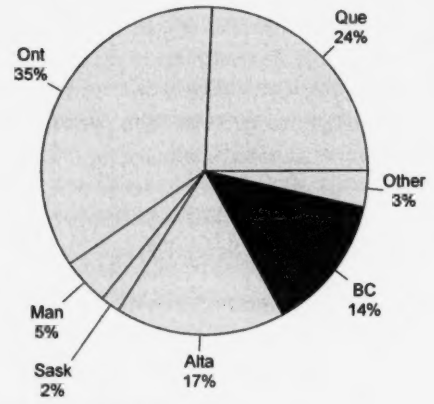
Another significant contributor to the drop in exports between 2008 and 2009 was sulphur, which saw shipments plunge 69.5%. There was a further drop in value of exports of this good in 2010, but in 2011, shipments have more than recovered with the value shipped year-to-date already more than triple that recorded in 2008. In fact, the increase in shipments of sulphur has been responsible for almost 66% of growth in exports to Australia year-to-date in 2011.

Parts and accessories of motor vehicles are an-other top export from BC to Australia. In 2010, shipments of these goods almost doubled (+90.7%), although year-to-date in 2011, exports have dipped considerably (-20.4%). Given that Australians drive on the left side of the road, such that vehicles in that country are right-hand drive, there are limited opportunities for Canadian automobile exporters in that market.

Within Canada, BC ranked fourth among the provinces with 14% of Canadian commodity exports to Australia originating in British Columbia in 2010. Ontario (35%), Quebec (24%) and Alberta (17%) all ranked ahead of BC as a source of exports to Australia. The top exports from Ontario are related mainly to transportation, including rail locomotives, aircraft and motor vehicles. Quebec also is a source of air-craft exports to Australia and pork products are another significant export

from that province. Sulphur is the top export from Alberta to Australia and parts for industrial machinery, particularly related to the mining industry, are also noteworthy exports.

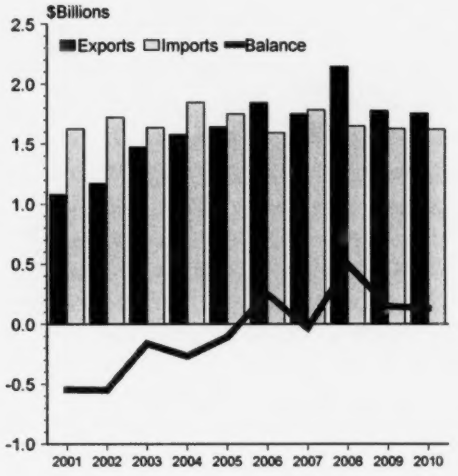
BC ranked fourth among the provinces in commodity exports to Australia in 2010



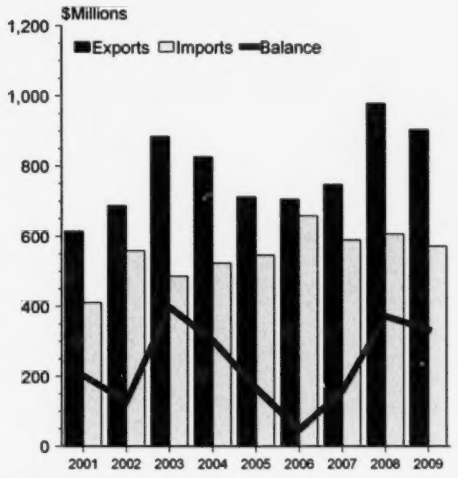
Source: Statistics Canada

Overall, total Canadian exports to Australia have not had the same recovery from the 2009 slump that BC shipments have seen. In fact, there was a slight decline in exports between 2009 and 2010 and growth year-to-date to November 2011 has been modest. However, the balance of trade in goods has shifted into a slight surplus in Canada's favour in the last several years (i.e., exports have exceeded imports). Similarly, Canada has a surplus in trade in services with Australia. In 2009, the latest year for which service data are available, Canada exported $903 million worth of services to Australia and imported $571 million, resulting in a trade surplus of approximately $333 million.

Canada has a surplus in trade in goods with Australia...



...and also a surplus in trade in services



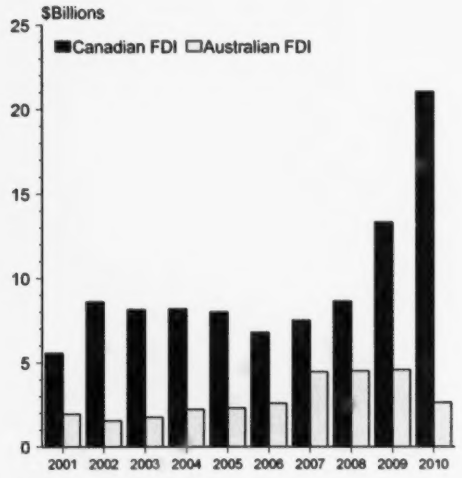
Source: Statistics Canada

Canada's trade with Australia is relatively small when compared with Canada's larger trading partners, such as the United States or the European Union, for example. Some of the reasons why the trade relationship is not larger include the geographical distance between the two countries, as well as the similarity in the types of goods produced. Both countries are export-oriented and some of

Australia's top exports (coal, ores, beef) are also among Canada's top exports, such that Australia is as much a competitor as a partner in trade.

However, these similarities also present an opportunity for Canadian investors and a significant portion of Canadian direct foreign investment is directed toward Australia. In 2010, Canadians invested over $21 billion in Australia, which amounted to just over 3% of total Canadian direct investment abroad. There was substantially less investment by Australians in Canada, at only $2.6 billion.

Canadian foreign direct investment in Australia far exceeds Australian investment in Canada



Source: Statistics Canada

Australia may not be among the top ten destinations for exports for either BC or Canada as a whole, but it remains an important trading partner and there is room to expand trade. For British Columbia, the growth in exports in the last couple of years is a positive sign that Australia is still a key destination for BC products.

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Some of the analytical techniques that will be covered include cross tabulations, chi-square and some aspects of linear regression. The workshop includes a hands on data analysis exercise and a discussion on the principles for presenting results.

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TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Health Canada Boardroom
510 - 1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC

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Join us for a one day workshop on demographic data. This workshop will enhance your ability to understand and interpret demographic data, methods and techniques. This workshop is ideal for market researchers, policy analysts, business professionals, planners and other social scientists who use or commission demographic data.

As a result of your participation, you will be able to more effectively and accurately analyze demographic data. In addition, the workshops will increase your awareness of the availability of population data and current research techniques being used.

VICTORIA

FEBRUARY 23, 2012
THURSDAY
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Health Canada Boardroom
510 - 1230 Government St.
Victoria, BC

THE WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ON:

- Population growth - births, deaths and migration
- Population pyramids - rates and ratios
- Population estimates
- Population projections

Register Early as Space is Limited

Fee is $300 + HST

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Canada

Infoline

January 13, 2012
Issue 12-02

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2011	% change on one year ago
BC	4,592.0	0.9
Canada	34,605.3	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct 2011	3,172	-1.2
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2011	2,895	7.2
Retail Sales - Oct 2011	5,065	1.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.3	2.4
Vancouver	2.3	2.3
Victoria	2.1	2.2
Canada	2.9	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2011	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	10.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,465.5	0.4
Employed - BC	2,293.0	0.5
Unemployed - BC	172.5	0.1
		Nov 2011
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.5	7.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 11/2012	Jan 12/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.35
- 5 year	5.29	5.19
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 11/2012	Jan 12/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0192	0.9864
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9811	1.0133
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2011	% change on one year ago
BC	854.88	4.6
Canada	853.57	2.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Regional Labour Force Participation Rate Projections

Forecasts of labour force participation rates are a key component of projections of future levels of employment. This report gives detailed projections of labour force participation by Development Region, by age and sex out to 2036.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/RegionalLFPR2011.pdf

Open Data

Statistics Canada is implementing a new dissemination model. On February 1, 2012, the CANSIM database will be free to access and standard Census products will be free. In addition, Statistics Canada will no longer charge fees for the right to redistribute its information. Organizations will be encouraged to redistribute information under terms and conditions similar to the Government of Canada Open Data Licence Agreement for Unrestricted Use of Canada's Data. The objective of the new dissemination model is to provide users with maximum benefit from statistical information about Canada's economy and society.

Regional Employment Projections

Updated projections of employment by industry and occupation are now available. The data offers regional detail for College Regions and Development Regions with estimates for 2010 and projections for 2015.

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Exports, November 2011
- Consumer Price Index, December 2011
  CPI tables, including annual averages, will be updated on our site on Friday, January 20.

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